

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 AID-05 SCCT-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SY-04 A-01 PC-04

IO-10 OPR-02 OMB-01 USSS-00 /096 W

----- 078993

R 221500Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4095

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0658

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS :PINSQNSCU, SF

SUBJ :SIT-IN AT TURFLOOP ENDS

REF :CAPE TOWN 589

1. STUDENTS AT (BLACK) UNIVERSITY OF THE NORTH IN TURFLOOP ENDED SIT-IN ON OCT 11. STUDENTS HAD BEEN BOYCOTTING CLASSES FOR PAST WEEK IN PROTEST AGAINST ARRESTS OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, KAUNDA SEDIBE; SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS ORGANIZATION (SASO) NATIONAL PRESIDENT, PANDELANI NEFOLOVODWE; AND SASO LOCAL COMMITTEE MEMBER CYRIL RAMAPHOSA.

2. SEDIBE AND NEFOLOVODWE WERE ARRESTED IN AFTERMATH OF PRO-FRELIMO RALLY HELD AT TURFLOOP SEPT 14(REFTTEL), AND ARE STILL IN DETENTION UNDER TERRORISM ACT. RAMAPHOSA WAS ARRESTED ON FIRST DAY SIT-IN AND BOYCOTT. UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS HAD MAINTAINED THAT ISSUE CONCERNED ONLY STUDENTS AND POLICE, NOT UNIVERSITY, BUT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY COUNCIL HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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NOW AGREED TO DISCUSS SITUATION. THIS CONCESSION APPARENTLY

FACTOR IN ENDING BOYCOTT.

3. UNIVERSITY RECTOR BOSHOFH HAD THREATENED TO ASK POLICE TO DISPERSE STUDENTS, AND WHITE STAFF MEMBERS HAD FORMED 'HOME GUARD' TO PROTECT WHITE FAMILIES LIVING AT TURFLOOP. NO INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED.

4. COMMENT: FORTUITOUS TIMING MAY HAVE KEPT SITUATION AT TURFLOOP FROM BECOMING SERIOUS CONFRONTATION. SUPPORT FOR DEMONSTRATION DWINDLED DURING WEEK, APPARENTLY DUE TO STUDENT CONCERN ABOUT IMMINENT EXAM PERIOD AND THREATENED CLOSURE OF UNIVERSITY BEFORE SCHEDULED NOVEMBER DATE. SPECTACLE OF WHITE STAFF ESTABLISHING 'HOME GUARD' IS VIVID DEMONSTRATION OF POOR BLACK/WHITE RELATIONS AT 'TRIBAL' UNIVERSITIES.

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Message Attributes

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